

Foreshadowing- equity work, task force update, equity workshop and board elections, proposal to add 30 minutes to regular PRAB meetings. Retreat minutes to discuss in committees and Lee shares how many PRAB members are on each committee.

Lisa indicates there are more members on the Outreach committee than listed.

*Need to take time to balance committees and make adjustments.

1. Outreach/Action Sub-Committee, presented by Lisa Calderon and Tash Mitchell

D9 Parks and Rec Advisory Meeting 9/2/2020

Committee voted unanimously to:

- Transition the D9 Advisory Cmte to the PRAB Outreach Cmte
 - To recommend Courtney's pesticide presentation to the PRAB.
1. Presenters to INC for park and public land trust; Jim Peterson, Linda Wong
 - a. Speeches will be recorded and uploaded onto the INC website
 2. Racial Disparities report
 - a. Document accessible on trust for public land, title: The Heat is On - https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/The-Heat-is-on_A-Trust-for-Public-Land_special-report.pdf
 3. Park design
 - a. It's important to include children in park creation or design
 - i. They always include sources of water in their layouts
 4. Tree Canopy
 - a. Reductions of conifers in parks, specifically the difficulty of keeping them alive because of water/salt in water/portable water
 5. Goose Culling
 - a. Still unresolved
 - b. Dialouge still need to happen on the committee level and on the board level
 - c. There is a need to facilitate communication between the Sustainability Committee and the Canada Geese Protection Colorado
 6. Protection of Open Space
 - a. Park hill golf course charter amendment did not get on ballot for November ballot but open space is still threatened. Organizers studying other ways to get the issue on the ballot in a future election.
 - b. need for clarification on many different open spaces including
 - i. golf courses in district 9
 - ii. Platt farm open space
 - iii. Rhino lake park
 - iv. 39th avenue greenway, nearing completion
 - c. Must ensure that new parks are designated

- i. once parks are designated they cannot be sold or changed hands without the approval of the public
 - d. There is a backlog of parks without proper designation as parks
 - i. For example: the northern 1/3rd of Platte to Park Hill Golf Course has not been designated as official park space.
- 7. Courtney Dewinter presentation on food safety of urban goose meat to the poor:
 - a. What are the ramifications?
 - b. 2019 pesticide report
 - i. Showed 29 pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals poured in the parkways and in the water
 - c. Concerns
 - i. ALL chemicals are harmful to humans, pollinators, fish and geese
 - ii. Harmful Effects
 - 1. birth defects, cancers, convulsions, DNA damage, miscarriages, enlargement of heart, respiratory effects, death, liver failure, etc.
 - iii. Bio accumulation is occurring in animals, soils, and waters
 - iv. Goose meat is being hit directly because they are directly in contact with the substances, but also are getting it through soil, water, and grass
 - v. Harmful to dogs, fish and birds through bioaccumulation
 - vi. Definitive proof that this should not be fed to anyone, not people not animals
 - vii. People in charge of distributing this meat do not even know how far this meat is being passed on, how large scale this production is occurring

Florence- timely issues, when we talk about what are our committees doing? What becomes a topic? What is the role of the committees? Good time to evaluate the purpose of the committees and making sure we are addressing the community issues that come up.

How we work as committees?

Lisa- recommendations- how do we move things forward? Do I bring it here to PRAB or can we talk about it in executive committee. Proper vehicle for action items. It is unclear at this point.

Marla- look at each issue and make sure they are thoroughly reviewed in committees. Then make a recommendation to whole group.

Lisa- The process isn't working. When the avenue in other committees don't work. How can we have public input, committee input into regular PRAB meetings?

Fran- My concern is a lack of communication about overlapping issues. When sending retreat notes, noticed a lot of overlap. Seems premature to make a motion.

Lisa- Seems that people have tried to bring issues up in various committees, but have not always been welcomed. Fine with executive (chairperson group) committee taking up this issue. Wants to make sure we have less barriers.

Marla- when you talk about outreach committee, you mean to transform the district 9 citizens group? Is there a broader community?

Lisa- District 9 advisory committee, it has always been more than just district 9. Would love more consistency across committees.

Tash- Overall, there is a lack of transparency in process, then what happens? Would like the executive committee to think through. When we get emails about issues, what do we do with it?

6:33- Lisa will withdraw motion until we discuss in exec. session, not for one comm to determine. This needs to be figured out in exec, comm.

2. Planning and Design Sub-committee Recap, presented by Meredith Levy

Planning and Design Subcommittee met on 8/26

Our 8/26 meeting included 4 main topics: Understanding role of police vs. park rangers in parks; Reopening Plan; open streets in parks; and Game Plan.

-Our committee met with Scott Gilmore to understand the role of police vs. park rangers in parks.

DPR enforces park curfew, closed 11pm-5am. DPR does not allow illegal structures built- that include a roof and a floor; cannot have a tent with a few exceptions. This is the policy in the greenways, parkways, anything DPR manages. DPR has a nighttime crew that consists of 2 rangers and 3-4 maintenance staff to manage parks to make sure people are not in the parks and make sure trash is collected. Most challenges are in the downtown corridor. DPR and park rangers do not do sweeps. Role is to keep our parks clean, and DPR works with DPD on some of these issues. The park ranger program has grown because DPR didn't want to have to call the police for various reasons. Having rangers in the park has removed criminal offenses. There are 40 rangers that work in the city and county of Denver. When DPR park ranger program started, they could only enforce parking or for environmental health issues (dog, pet issues). With rangers, shifted from criminal offenses to citations in order to educate people about park rules and regulations. Focus is to get compliance. The citation system is civil.

DPR is taking police out of the equation, and only call the police when a ranger is being threatened or a situation arises- ex: shooting, suicides, overdoses.

Encampments that are happening are usually along the river. DPR was involved in a lawsuit from 3 years ago (homeless)- part of resolution. DPR will collect people's stuff as long as it is not dangerous- and try to connect people to their stuff. DPR stores personal items through DOTI and DPR- tag it and

bag it for 30 days minimum. Tents trashed that were covered in needles. Safe tents would be stored on 7th Ave.

Scott stated: "We do support the overall actions of the City of Denver. Rangers have a very good relationship with the homeless community- they are well respected and part of de-escalation technique. They direct folks to resources, DPR is one of the groups that has been trained to follow rules of lawsuits."

We asked if DPR has data about citations? Mostly dog off leash, going in closed areas in Red Rocks park. DPR tries to get compliance. We do not take demographics. Rangers are unarmed- that is done purposely- they do carry mace and a baton. The rangers have a great relationship to DPD- sometimes they will ask DPR to close a trail or park. Or DPR might make requests to DPD. Scott stated they would like to diversify ranger demographics, and there is great new leadership with Eliza Hunholz.

-John Martinez working on opening 4 recreation centers so kids have access to wifi, safe space, etc.

-Florence Navarro provided an update about connecting with Mark Tabor about Game Plan and 2A. The Game Plan has been incorporated into the division work plans for the year- all tied to 3 year action plan. The Legacy Fund ties into the Game Plan- and this will be included in the annual report. Voters voted for that money- this should be shared with the community. We discussed the importance of sharing the report with the public. Further discussion about PRAB amplifying report to community.

-Molly McKinley led a discussion about open streets in the parks- Wash Park, Cheeseman, Sloans Lake- streets in these parks are closed to vehicle traffic to give more space for people to safely walk and bike. At prior meeting Happy Haynes stated not willing to make permanent change, despite a lot of community support. DOTI perspective- has a plan to keep that in place by the end of October. DOTI not hearing negative feedback. Denver bicycle lobby submitted a petition in support of keeping parks open to people and not through traffic. Happy would like to make it a larger public process. Developing a stakeholder process for open streets in parks- can we start this? What is Parks and Rec doing? PRAB can make a recommendation- but need more information. Molly will followup with Happy Haynes- to share data and get stakeholder process going.

3.Operations and Maintenance, Budget and finance, presented by Leslie Twarogowski

Finance policy and wheeled device policy- what the department is asking to do is to put into practice the policy of the past 18 months.

Eliza and Josh (staff) will bring forth the policy. Please read the entire policy and ask questions beforehand. Car free parks is one of the recommendations already made from PRAB. Would ask for temporary closures to be closed and extend permanently.

Marla- please read policies. Gather feedback and be prepared to vote on this at next meeting.

Lynne- Wondering about car free with handicapped parking. Thinking about rec center and pool at Wash park.

Molly- Unclear about we as a board start this process. Seems very confusing and unclear about the flow process of committees.

(Other committees/ how do we function as committees? How do

4. Sustainability and Resiliency Sub-committee, presented by Fran Coleman

Did not meet last month, not enough time. Vicki Vargas wrote a report for Mr. Reis. He is working on a forum for volunteers to help with non-lethal measures. Pesticides in meat- recent culled meat has not been distributed and is being evaluated at this time for more than just lead.

If you let Fran know ahead of time, community can join the committee meetings.

Lisa- clarification- first gentleman Reis does not represent the Geese protection groups. Courtney Dewinter sent report regarding use of pesticides on August 15th. (For the record, Marlon Reis does not speak on behalf of CGPC. All PRAB members should have received the CGPC statement on the organization's position vis-a-vis the First Gentleman in your email yesterday morning. Thank you.- Carole Woodall)

Fran- if someone wants to present a report to PRAB (303-995-2260). Doesn't want to go back and forth.

Lisa- Request has come to the Sustainability and Resiliency committee for a presentation on use of pesticides. (sent from Courtney)

Marla- Interrupts the dialogue (Lisa and Fran). Request that we are respectful and gracious.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PRAB – Executive Director's Report
September 2020

1. Geese

Launching soon - volunteer project to initiate a hazing activity at select parks (with lakes) using coyote cutouts that will be rotated around these parks from time to time by volunteers.

Under Vicki Vargas Madrid with volunteer dept. will begin soon. Will need people across the city. Training details will go sustainability and resiliency committee.

2. Closed Roads – separate ppt (last)

Currently 7 parks have roads closed to cars. Evaluating road closures, impacts, potentially more parks with car free experiences. Many factors to consider, ADA access issues have been re-opened for equitable access. Have done some studies and it involves complex issues. (next steps- will go to planning and design committee, will coordinate with DOTI and collect more data and community feedback. Public- we will bring to committee and have lots of public dissemination and discussion about proposals. Will be shared with PRAB.

Meredith- is there a staff member we can talk with?

HH- not sure who that will be yet, will keep posted. From city planning staff (Owen Wells likely)

Molly- glad to see DOTI is involved. Interdepartmental communication is hard.

3. 2020 – 2021 Budget/ Retirements

Retirements –

Nearly 20 positions, over \$2 million – covered largely through vacancy savings

Elimination of a few positions, delay in backfilling certain positions

Frank- Noting the amount of retirements in the department- 535 years- seems that we will be missing a lot of institutional knowledge. Have done a nice job recognize their many years of service.

Parks Reduction Impacts – Reduced on-call hiring, unfilled vacancies

Reduced frequency, slower response:

Trash collection

Trimming

Mowing

Restroom cleaning

Snow removal

Irrigation maintenance and repair

Graffiti removal

Working to ensure equity across the city and continue services. Will make sure no disproportionate reductions occur.

No reduction in Park Ranger program or staff

Tree planting

Permitting –

No events over 175 people with restrictions

Any cancellations due to COVID will not affect historical status

Prior permits refunded

Revenue loss

Recreation Reduction Impacts –

Loss of revenue
Membership refunds
Furloughs – nearly half the staff, remainder redeployed
Continued closures – limited programs
Pools closed
Reduced hours and programs in larger facilities

Capital Improvement Program –

Criteria: Focus on continuing previous investments that require limited additional operating resources, emphasis on Equity, invest in maintenance and critical system improvements for safety and security, leverage additional funding from local, regional, or state partners, alignment with the Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

DPR capital project requests recommended for funding in the 2021 CIP budget: over \$16M in Capital Maintenance across the Parks and Recreation portfolio, and

- \$2M for Heron Pond construction
- \$2M for reconstruction of the South Platte Trail
- \$200k of CIP for professional services
- \$1.5M for Parks ADA improvements
- Almost \$13M in Legacy fund projects

4. Recovery Plans –

Outdoor athletics, summer youth athletic camps

Outdoor fitness programming at several sites

Indoor fitness programming by appointment - Central, Carla Madison, Scheitler

Continue: on-line recreation programming for fall

Continue: meal sites, My Denver programming, emergency shelter support as needed,

Learning labs (with partnerships to provide safe spaces with reliable internet for students to complete school work), parks maintenance support

Boating permits – non motorized

5. Parks Naming

Removing hold on public hearings

OTHER ITEMS

Board Announcements

Equity 9/15- all zoom would like everyone, including staff

Equity task force- Florence-

Have started the work (Fran, Meredith, Lisa, Amy, Molly)

Possibly take the form of a proclamation. Gathered many statements on a shared document, drafted ideas to include in the statement. Would like to share with Dr. Tyler to help us capture a statement.

Board elections- send email to Florence and Noel- for nominations

Will be voting at PRAB meeting in October-

Florence- will let you know in advance

Noel- would like to change the tenor, volunteer to accept an additional role. This is an opportunity.

Lee- Working on a graphic to lay out the PRAB committee scope of work and processes for PRAB.

Hopes to share next month. Attended the grand opening of phase 2 at Paco Sanchez Park and encourages people to go check out the innovative park. Reminder of equity meeting on 9/15.

Noel- consideration of adding time. Think about how issues that come through the board could be expeditiously handled.

Lisa- great job to Scott Gilmore for a dedication for Isabella G.

ADJOURNMENT

7:47